

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2001

The meeting of the Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill O’Gara at 1:07 P.M. at the Maine Emergency Medical Services conference room in Augusta with the following members present: Michael Albert, Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Jeff Cammack, John Dean, Clifton Foster, Darrel Fournier, Al Godfrey, Ted Johnston, Randy Keep, Jeff Maker, Bill O’Gara, Jethro Pease, Michael Quint, Christine Savage and Steve Willis. Members excused: John Cannon, Harty Norris, Tom Parent and Dave Wacker. Also present were Susan Pinette (Staff), Earle Welch, Jr., Wayne Asst. Fire Chief and Alec Johnston, Jr. Firefighter, Fayette Fire Dept.

The minutes of the June 25 and July 16 meetings were handed out by the Secretary. The June 25 minutes were discussed at length as related to concerns on the surcharge statement on insurance bills. Paragraph 6 was amended again to properly reflect those concerns. The amended June 25 minutes were then accepted. The July 16 minutes were also amended and then accepted. The Secretary will send out amended minutes to all of the members.

Chairman O’Gara then introduced Representatives Foster and Quint and Senator Savage to the rest of the Commission members. They represent the Legislature as Commission members.

Old Business

Sub-committee members reported on progress on the development of the following sections of the Commission report to the Governor and Legislature as follows:

2. Steve Willis reported that he and John Dean had met to do a detailed assessment. They raised the question of what is acceptable risk? It is believed the Commission needs to key on staffing, response time issues, etc. A detailed discussion followed. Darrel Fournier suggested we take the last 3 years history data and set a benchmark. A motion by Darrel Fournier, 2nd by Ted Johnston that the Commission do a 3 year history assessment of the established risk to Maine’s fire service was approved unanimously. It was agreed to try to have the information ready for the September 24 meeting.

11. Ted Johnston reported he has been in contact with Congressional offices and will be receiving information to present to the Commission at a future meeting.

9. Jay Bradshaw and John Dean reported meeting with Anne Shaad of the State Police on developing the death benefit program rules and will report at the next meeting on the progress in this regard. Chairman O’Gara inquired of the status of the definition of a firefighter. He was advised the definition in Maine Statutes probably covers what is required, however, it is still being looked at.

8. Mike Albert reported that his subcommittee is still compiling figures and waiting for final surveys to come in. They want to get the age and sex numbers as close as possible. Susan Pinette reported that we now have over 300 survey responses returned and with the volunteers contacting those that have not returned them we are now waiting for this response. The same form used before in May will be used with the return date deleted.

7. Jack Berry spoke on the volunteer incentives work plan. J. Pease, D. Fournier, G. Maker and J. Berry are the correct subcommittee members. A general discussion ensued on how to proceed with RFP development and the need to set a benchmark on the date to

put it out. It was suggested that October 1, 2001 be considered as a date for the RFP to be sent out. The subcommittee plans to meet around 11:00 A.M. on September 10, 2001 to finalize plans before the meeting that afternoon. The volunteers need to try to get to the Departments that haven't returned their questionnaires before the September 10, 2001 meeting if at all possible.

2. Randy Keep handed out letters from Mark Landry and Fred Winterberg and discussed how we need to address those sources for funding. We need to look to the self-insured and also the General Fund for the balance for supporting the Fire Marshal Office and Fire Training and Education.

New Business

Maine Fire Training and Education offers a service for \$200.00 per year for listing a calendar of meetings and agenda statewide. It was suggested that the Commission consider listing all of our future meetings so that the word would get out on what we are doing. Steve Willis suggested that the Commission consider developing a web page with our bylaws and goals listed together with the latest work being done. This will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

A motion by Jack Berry, 2nd by Jay Bradshaw that the Commission purchase 2 copies of the International Association of Fire Chief's retention book and obtain free copies of the National Fire Academy retention book for all members was approved.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, September 10, 2001 at 1:00 P.M. in the same facility. The meetings to follow will be Monday, September 24, 2001, Monday, October 15, 2001 and Monday October 29, 2001.

With no further discussion to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert L. Godfrey, Sr., P.E., P.L.S., C.S.E.
Secretary